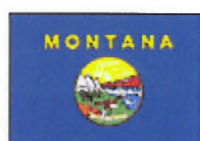


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Project _____
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Montana

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[ALMANAC](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[STATE MAPS](#)
[PEOPLE](#)
[GOVERNMENT](#)
[FORUM](#)
[NEWS](#)
[COOL SCHOOLS](#)
[STATE QUIZ](#)
[BOOK STORE](#)
[MARKETPLACE](#)
[NETSTATE.STORE](#)
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The Great Seal of Montana



The Great Seal of the State of Montana may look idyllic, but its history is anything but. Back in 1865 when Montana was still a territory, a legislative committee chaired by Francis M. Thompson tried to design a seal that would represent Montana's natural attributes and economic potential. They decided that a shovel, a pick, and a plow could symbolize Montana's agricultural and mineral wealth. They envisioned mountains, trees, buffalo, and other animals in the scene by the Great Falls of the Missouri River. They decided on a

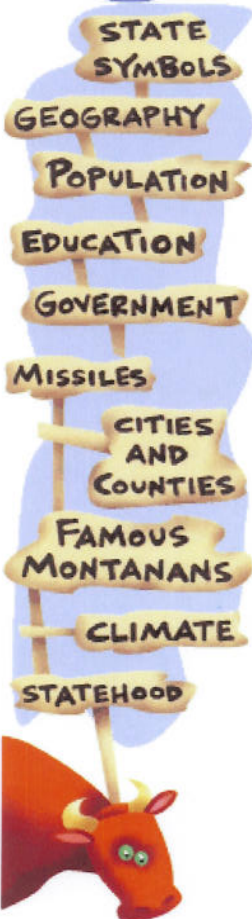
territorial motto of "Gold and Silver" in Spanish. As legislation passed, and as various designers and artisans became involved, strange things happened to Montana's seal. The "Gold and Silver" motto got mistranslated at one point, and was corrected from "Oro el Plata" to Oro y Plata". The abundant buffalos and other animals that were originally legislated dwindled to one lone buffalo. At another point, in 1876, the buffalo disappeared altogether. In 1887, mountains changed shape, the skies became cloudless, trees grew, and even the orientation of the sun c changed.

When Montana became a state in 1889, the design of the seal was debated again. In 1891, proposals included the addition of 41 stars to represent the states, and the addition of new symbols, including Indians, buffalo, settlers and their wagons, a train, a stage coach, horses, sheep, cattle, a miner, a mill, a schoolhouse, a stream, and an irrigated field. Hold it!... As lawmakers continued this symbol frenzy, it became obvious that a mural might be a better choice for all these ideas. So, instead, the legislation failed, and it was decided that a better solution would be to use the existing territorial seal, and change the word "Territory" to "State". Whew!!

But, alas, it wasn't going to be that easy after all. When the engraver, G.R. Metten, was commissioned to produce the seal, he took it upon himself to reverse the flow of Great Falls and the Missouri River, move some trees, and reshape mountains.

Today, Montana's attractive and serene Great Seal belies the politics, mishaps, and artistic license of its history.

State [Statute](#).



State Seal

Montana's first official symbol, its seal, has had a fascinating history. A Montana Territory legislative committee initially designed a seal in 1865. Francis M. Thompson chaired the committee and had what passed for expertise in the seal design business. He had engraved seals for the first mining districts on the ends of ax handles. Even he had to admit his work was not the most artistic, but it was the best at hand.

The special committee felt a seal should include all the essential elements in Montana's economy and future. A plow, shovel and pick would illustrate agricultural and mineral wealth. Surrounding these would be mountains, from which Montana took its name, the sun, and the Great Falls of the Missouri River. Interspersed on the field, delegates specified trees, buffalo, and other wild animals then in abundance. The seal would be two inches high and surrounded by the words THE SEAL OF THE TERRITORY OF MONTANA.

As a territorial motto, committee members favored "Gold and Silver." Someone thought the phrase would be nice in Spanish. The rest agreed. Unfortunately, no one knew Spanish very well and the committee's recommendation to the Legislature suggested "Oro el Plata." Someone caught the error later and made it grammatically correct: "Oro y Plata."

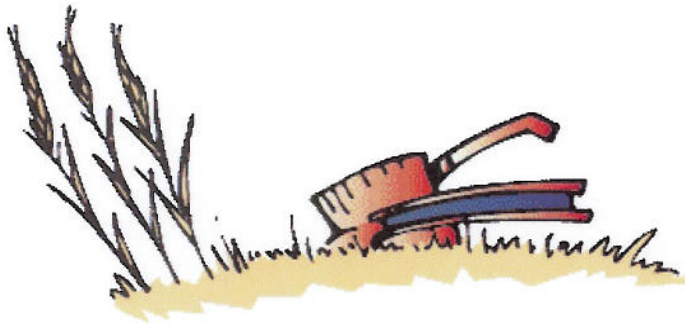


To accompany the report, Thompson drew a crude sketch and submitted both to the Legislature on February 4, 1865. (Thompson's original hand drawn design is preserved in the Montana Historical Society Library.) During formal debate, a few council members suggested "El Dorado," meaning "the place of gold," as a more fitting motto, but the special committee's recommendation prevailed. On February 9, 1865, both houses passed the measure and Governor Sidney Edgerton signed it into law. Montana had its first symbol.

Such a crude sketch as Thompson's would not do for the official seal, of course, but no one in Montana at the time could engrave it properly. Governor Edgerton delegated his nephew, a young lawyer named Wilbur Fisk Sanders, to have a seal made in the "states."

Sanders contacted the necessary parties and in the spring of 1866 delivered the official seal. Because the resolution failed to specify tree and wild animals (Sanders did remember buffalo), the engraver produced a more simplified version, complete with a single buffalo on the opposite bank of the Missouri River.

Over the years alterations in the seal took place. An 1876 edition removed the buffalo and added clouds. In 1887, the Legislature authorized a replacement for the worn seal and the engraver returned an altered plate. The mountains were different, the clouds were gone, trees had sprouted where buffalo once roamed, and the sun had shifted position, setting in the west instead of rising in the east.



After Montana became the 41st state on November 8, 1889, officials continued to use the territorial seal until 1891. That year state Senator Cornelius Hedges proposed a radical redesign:

"On the outer margin...the words "The Great Seal of Montana," and in smaller letters, connecting the ends of the foregoing words, separated therefrom by a scroll, and underneath the central design, the motto "Sub Lege Libertas." The foregoing marginal inscription shall be separated from the central device by a row of 41 stars, in the central line of which at the top shall be the figures "41" and at the bottom, the figures "1864-1889."

"The central design shall represent the sun rising over mountain peaks for a background, and to the left in the foreground shall appear as receding the Indian and buffalo with other wild game over a sage-brush desert, while on the right shall appear as entering the field, the emigrant wagon and stage-coach, followed by a rail-road train - also a miner with pick and shovel, the mouth of a tunnel and a quartz mill and smelter; a stream of water, a waterfall, a reservoir with water diverted over an irrigated field, also cattle, horses and sheep feeding on the foothills."

Other senators added the traditional pick, shovel and plow, plus a mule train, a school house and a shepherd's crook to the proposal. House members opposed the changes, saying Montana would need a seal ten times larger and the proposal died.

Finally in 1893, Governor John E. Rickards pushed for an official "state" seal. The Legislature agreed to stay with the old design, just deleting "Territory" and adding "State" and increasing the overall diameter from two to two and one-half inches.

G.R. Metten, manager of the J. Steimmetz Jewelry Company of Helena engraved the new seal for the state of Montana for \$20. He made radical alterations in its design: reversed the flow of the Great Falls and the Missouri River, moved the sun back to its rising position, redesigned the mountains and transplanted the trees.



Subsequent engravers have taken minor liberties with the seal, but its general form remains unchanged from the design of G.R. Metten. Around the turn of the century there was some sentiment to change the state motto from "Oro y Plata" to something less related to money. The effort achieved attention in the press, but not serious consideration by succeeding Legislative assemblies.

Years later, Governor J. Hugo Aronson formulated a fictitious seal for use on his re-election campaign posters in 1956. This modification included cattle, shocks of grain, and an oil derrick to represent those aspects of Montana's economy, complementing the plow, the pick, and the shovel.

Governor Aronson's campaign succeeded, but his effort to change the seal was only jest. Montana's official seal remains today, embodying most of the elements Frances Thompson sketched out in 1865, in slightly altered form, thanks to the liberties of G.R. Metten.

Special Acknowledgements to: Montana Historical Society,
Rex C. Meyers and Norma B. Ashby



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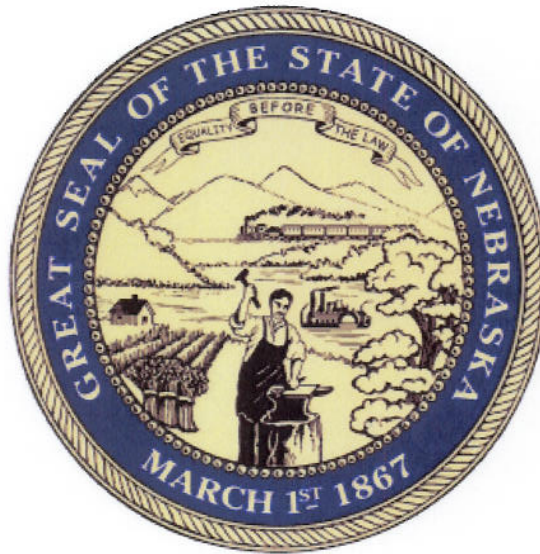
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Nebraska

The Great Seal of Nebraska



Nebraska gained statehood as the 37th state in 1867, and the state's first legislature established Nebraska's official seal in the same year. The themes of transportation, industry, settlement, and agriculture are depicted on Nebraska's seal. A railroad train steams across the background, with mountains in the distance. A steamboat plies the waters of the Missouri River. A simple cabin and sheaves of harvested wheat portray the importance of

settlers and agriculture. A blacksmith works at his anvil in the foreground. At the top of the seal a banner holds the motto "Equality Before the Law", and around the outside of the seal are the words "Great Seal of the State of Nebraska, March 1st, 1867".

State [Statute](#).

< MT



NV >

[\[HOME || INTRO || SYMBOLS || ALMANAC || GEOGRAPHY || STATE MAPS || PEOPLE || FORUM \]](#)
[|| NEWS \[COOL SCHOOLS || STATE QUIZ || BOOK STORE || MARKETPLACE \[NETSTATE.STORE \]](#)
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Top

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[Administration](#)
[Elections](#)
[Business and Licensing](#)
[Records Management](#)
[Youth Services](#)
[Forms](#)
[Home](#) » [Nebraska State Symbols](#) » Great Seal of Nebraska

The Great Seal of Nebraska



In 1866 the first constitution of Nebraska stated, "There shall be a seal of which shall be kept by the governor and used by him officially, and shall Great Seal of the State of Nebraska." After statehood had been achieved in 1867 then Governor Butler called a special session of the legislature to pass as the Governor thought necessary for starting the state government. In this session a bill was introduced that required the Secretary of State to procure a seal "...to be designated and known as the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska." The eastern part of the circle to be represented by a steamship ascending the Missouri River, the mechanic arts to be represented by a steam hammer and anvil, in the foreground, agriculture to be represented by a sheaf of wheat, and stalks of growing corn, in the background a train of steam locomotives towards the Rocky Mountains, and on the extreme west, the Rocky Mountains plainly in view, around the top of the circle, to be in capital letters, the motto 'Before the Law,'

and the circle to be surrounded with the words, "Great Seal of the State of Nebraska, March 1, 1867." A sum of twenty-five dollars was appropriated to enable the Secretary of State to carry out the act and the bill was signed into law by Governor Butler on June 15, 1867.

According to legend the seal purchased by then Secretary of State Thomas Kennard played a key role when the Capitol was moved from Omaha to Lincoln in 1868. According to Mr. Kennard's statements much later in life and Governor Butler had decided to go along with the movement to make the move to Lincoln. "So Governor Butler and I, without consulting any other person, decided what steps we should take. We planned that he should remain in Omaha and go to his home in Pawnee City and prepare his proclamation announcing the removal, that I should remain in my home in Washington county and on the following Sunday I would hitch up my team and drive up to the Capitol, wrap up the seal, carefully take it out and place it under the seat in my buggy, drive straight west over the prairies and before Sunday closed cross the Platte river. The scheme was successfully carried out. The following Monday I appeared at the new Capitol with the State Seal and put the impression upon the proclamation of Governor Butler, who met me here, and which declared that the Capitol of the State of Nebraska was at Lincoln, County of Lancaster, Nebraska, and now open for business."

The same seal that was purchased in 1867 and played the key role in the moving of the Capitol from Omaha to Lincoln the next year, is still in use today. The Seal is located in the Secretary of State's office and still leaves its impression on all official State documents.

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[State of Nebraska](#)

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Submittal # _____
Project: _____
Contract No. _____
Date: _____
Spec. Section _____
Project Manager _____
Description _____

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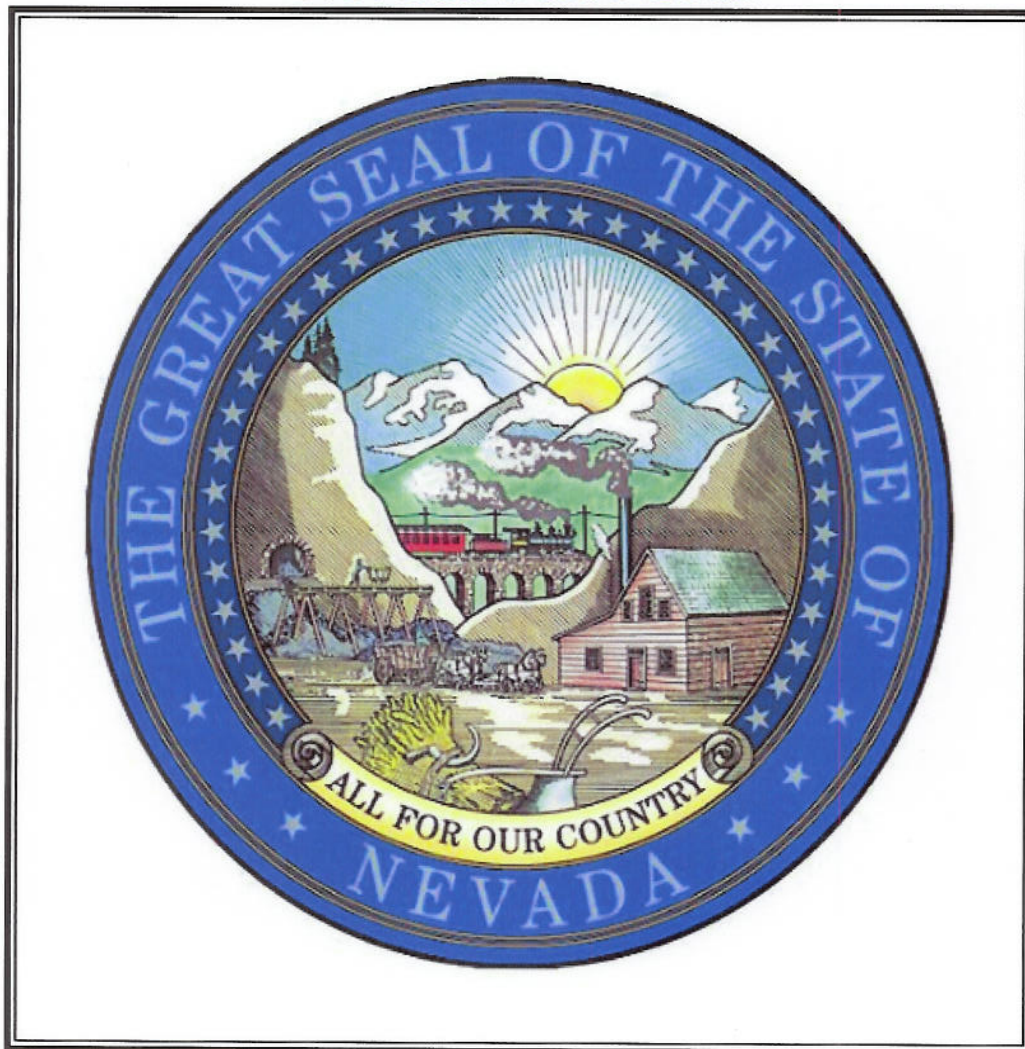
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Dean Heller
Nevada Secretary of State

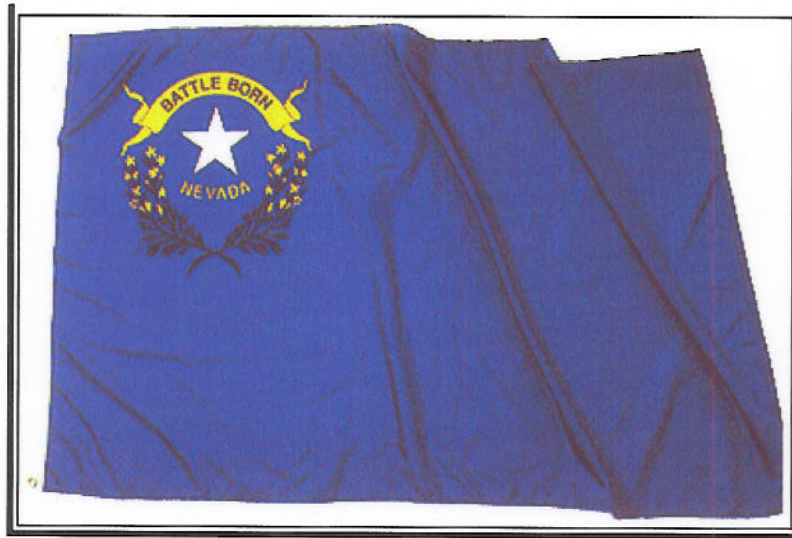
Nevada State Seal



STATE SEAL

Designed in July 1864 and adopted February 24, 1866. A blue seal is embossed with the words "The Great Seal of the State of Nevada" around the outer edge. Within this is a composite picture showing the mining, agriculture, industry and scenery of Nevada, under which is a scroll with the State motto, "All for our Country".

Nevada State Flag



STATE FLAG

The New Nevada State Flag; cobalt blue background; in upper left quarter is a five-pointed silver star between two sprays of sagebrush crossed to form a half wreath; across the top of wreath is a golden scroll with the words, in black letters "Battle Born." The name "Nevada" is below the star and above the sprays in golden letters. Design modified June 8, 1991, original design approved on March 21, 1929.

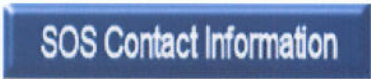
Nevada State Tree

Photo by John Dittli



THE ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINE

These trees are the oldest living organisms on our planet, with some trees being over 3,000 years old. The Bristlecone pines stubbornly cling to windy ridges in the Great Basin National Park at altitudes of between 9,000 and 11,500 feet. In 1964, a living tree was discovered in the Wheeler Peak grove which contained 4,844 annual growth rings.

A blue rectangular button with a gradient and a drop shadow, containing the text "SOS Contact Information" in white.

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Nevada

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[STATE MAPS](#)
[PEOPLE](#)
[FORUM](#)
[NEWS](#)
[COOL SCHOOLS](#)
[STATE QUIZ](#)
[BOOK STORE](#)
[MARKETPLACE](#)
[NETSTATE.STORE](#)
[NETSTATE.MALL](#)
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The Great Seal of Nevada



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Nevada gained statehood in 1864, but its seal began to take shape in 1861 when the U.S. Congress recognized the Territory of Nevada. At that time, the Territorial Seal bore the words "Volens et Potens", or "Willing and Able". As Nevada prepared for statehood in 1864, its Constitutional Convention began to formalize the features of the state's official seal. Nevada was admitted as a state on October 31, 1864 by proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln. On February 24, 1866, the motto "Volens et Potens" was replaced by "All for Our Country". The design of the seal was

formalized, and Nevada's mineral resources are featured with a silver miner and his team moving a carload of ore from a mountain in the foreground. A quartz mill stands before another mountain. Transportation and communication are symbolized by a train steaming across the background, with telegraph poles spanning the distance. Agriculture is represented by a sheaf of wheat, a sickle, and a plow in the foreground. Nevada's natural beauty is symbolized by a brilliant sun rising over snow-capped peaks. The inner circle of the seal carries the motto "All for Our Country", and Nevada's entry into the Union as the 36th state is shown with 36 stars completing the inner ring. The perimeter of the seal proclaims "The Great Seal of the State of Nevada".

State [Statute](#).

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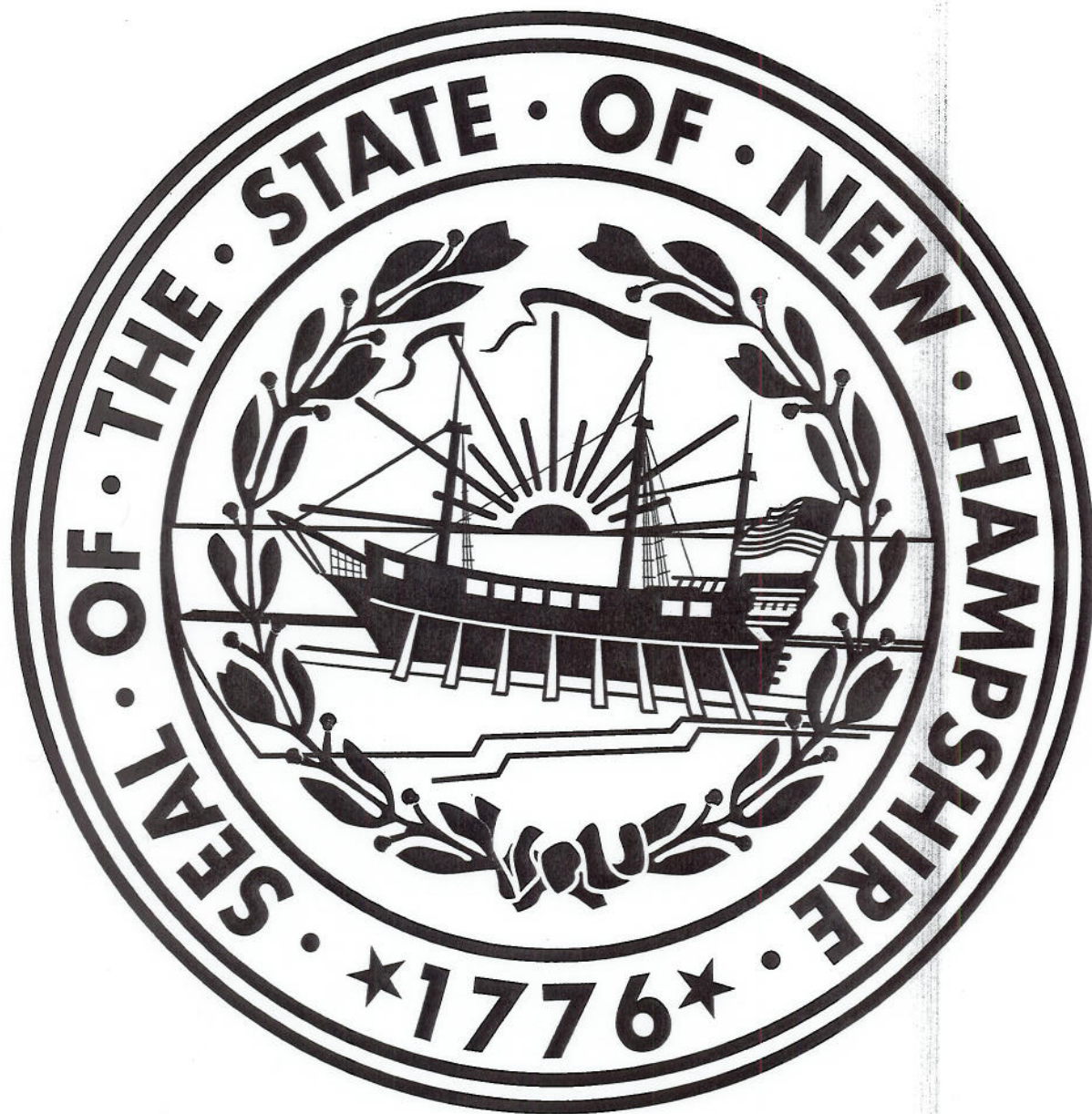
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[\[HOME \]](#) [\[INTRO \]](#) [\[SYMBOLS \]](#) [\[ALMANAC \]](#) [\[GEOGRAPHY \]](#) [\[STATE MAPS \]](#) [\[PEOPLE \]](#) [\[FORUM \]](#)
[\[NEWS \]](#) [\[COOL SCHOOLS \]](#) [\[STATE QUIZ \]](#) [\[BOOK STORE \]](#) [\[MARKETPLACE \]](#) [\[NETSTATE.STORE \]](#)
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[|| SYMBOLS](#)
[|| ALMANAC](#)
[|| GEOGRAPHY](#)
[|| STATE MAPS](#)
[|| PEOPLE](#)
[|| FORUM](#)
[|| NEWS](#)
[|| COOL SCHOOLS](#)
[|| STATE QUIZ](#)
[|| BOOK STORE](#)
[|| MARKETPLACE](#)
[|| NETSTATE.STORE](#)
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New Hampshire

The Great Seal of New Hampshire



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New Hampshire's first seal, created in 1775, consisted of a pine tree, a fish, and a set of five arrows. The arrows stood for the five counties at the time, while the pine tree and fish represented the state's major economic resources. In 1784, when the state's new constitution became effective, the legislature decided to change the seal to keep up with the changing times. The coastal town of Portsmouth had become a thriving ship building center, and the legislature wanted to portray this industry. So, with a rising sun in the background, the new design would feature a ship on stocks.

However, as time went on, this 1784 design became a victim of artists' whims and fancies. The scene continually changed. People appeared on docks, and barrels of rum materialized. In 1931, the legislature voted to regain control of the seal's design. Today, the seal is unchanging. The frigate Raleigh, one of the first ships that the Constitutional Congress authorized for the nation's navy, graces the center of the seal. The date on the bottom of the seal now reads 1776. The rum barrels are gone, the sun rises over the Atlantic Ocean, and a wreath of laurel frames the entire scene.

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< NV



NJ >

[\[HOME || INTRO || SYMBOLS || ALMANAC || GEOGRAPHY || STATE MAPS || PEOPLE || FORUM \]](#)
[|| NEWS \[COOL SCHOOLS || STATE QUIZ || BOOK STORE || MARKETPLACE \[NETSTATE.STORE \]](#)
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[Top](#)

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SENATE

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Here are some interesting facts about New Hampshire —

Origin of State Name:

New Hampshire was named for the English county of Hampshire.

Nickname:

Because of its granite bedrock, New Hampshire has been nicknamed the "Granite State."

Emblem and Motto:

The state emblem is an elliptical panel with a picture of the Old Man of Mountains. Surrounding the Old Man are Gen. John Stark's famous words "Free or Die," adopted as the state motto in 1945.



The Capital:

Concord, our state capital, was settled in 1733. At that time it was called Penacook. In 1733 it was incorporated as Rumford. This name was changed to Concord in 1765. State government moved to Concord in 1808 after residing in the sea-coast of Portsmouth for more than half a century when Exeter was the capital during the Revolutionary War). The Statehouse was built in 1819 and remains the oldest statehouse in the nation in which the Legislature continues to meet in its original chambers.



Flag:

The state flag consists of the state seal centered on a field of blue and surrounded by a wreath of leaves interspersed with nine stars. It was adopted in 1909.



Seal:

The central design of the state seal is a depiction of the frigate Raleigh resting on the stocks in Portsmouth, recalling New Hampshire's rich history of shipbuilding.

Amphibian:

The Red Spotted Newt, *Notophthalmus v.*



viridescens, was made the state amphibian 1985.



Animal:

The Whitetail Deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*, made the state animal in 1983.



Bird:

The Purple Finch, *Carpodacus purpureus*, was made the state bird in 1957.

Purple Finches prefer to live in open woods swamps where firs and cedars are numerous. Often, however, they choose to establish their homes in the vicinity of our homes, especially ornamental junipers or other conifers are nearby. Their summer range extends from the eastern provinces of Canada, southward through the eastern United States to northern New Jersey, Pennsylvania and westward to North Dakota. They spend their winter months from southern New England southward to the Gulf Coast.

As do all members of the finch family, purple finches have cone-shaped bills, adapted particularly to eating seeds. Insects and the buds of fruit are also eaten. The adult males are attractively colored, while immature males resemble the drabber-appearing females. These finches measure 5.5 inches to 6.5 inches in length.

The four to six dull greenish-blue eggs spotted with shades of brown, black and lilac are laid in a cup-type nest of grass, rootlets and bark strips. These nests are generally lined with hair, and are often found in conifers.

Flower:

The Purple Lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*, was made the state flower in 1919.

The Purple Lilac is an old English flower which has bloomed over cottages and in the meadows of Runnymede. It was loved by Shakespeare.



other poets, and when the stern patriots so new home they brought with them this frier bush and planted it at their first homes in s New England. One hundred and fifty years the pioneers took it north and once more p in the wilderness by their homes and in cle. It has seen many changes in New Hampshi pioneers are gone and the early homes the surrounded are gone, but the lilac remains thousands of backyards and fields where it the spring year after year.

**Wildflower:**

The Pink Lady's Slipper, *Cypripedium acaul*, made the state wildflower in 1991.

**Gem:**

Smokey Quartz was made the state gem in

**Insect:**

The Ladybug, *Adalia bipunctata*, was made state insect in 1977.

**Mineral:**

Beryl was made the state mineral in 1985.

**Rock:**

Granite was made the state rock in 1985.

Tree:



The White Birch, *Betula papyrifera*, was made the state tree in 1947.

The White Birch is a large, handsome tree from 50 feet to 70 feet in height. The leaves are deep green, pointed ovals and sharply toothed. The flowers appear in April or May in the form of drooping catkins about an inch long. The wood is hard, pale brown, very close grained and is used for spools, wood pulp, fuel and the making of items such as mop handles.

The delicate beauty of its white bark is striking against the green forest. The bark separates into many paper-thin layers from the white outside to orange on the inner layers. It is resinous, durable and waterproof.

The Birch was widely used in colonial times by Indians and early settlers. The inner bark was ground into a meal and its sap made into sugar. The white bark was used for roofing wilderness huts, making writing paper, pots and pans, baskets and boxes. The Indians also used the material in making their canoes.



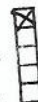
Sport:

Skiing became New Hampshire's official sport in 1998.



Architect of the Capitol
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Project _____
Contract # _____
Date _____
Since _____
Project _____
Description _____

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[HOME](#)
[INTRO](#)
[SYMBOLS](#)
[ALMANAC](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[STATE MAPS](#)
[PEOPLE](#)
[FORUM](#)
[NEWS](#)
[COOL SCHOOLS](#)
[STATE QUIZ](#)
[BOOK STORE](#)
[MARKETPLACE](#)
[NETSTATE.STORE](#)
[NETSTATE.MALL](#)
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[WEBMASTER](#)

New Jersey

The Great Seal of New Jersey



New Jersey's state seal was adopted in 1777 as the legislature met on the second floor of the Indian King Tavern in Haddonfield. Skirmishes between the Continental Army and the British made the northern part of the state an unstable place to meet, so the legislature left Trenton and used the inn's facilities. The Indian King served well as an assembly place, and it was here that Pierre Eugene du Simitere's design for the state seal was accepted.

The center of the seal features a shield adorned with three plows, symbolizing the state's rich agricultural base. Above the shield is a helmet and a crest with a horse's head, symbols of strength and sovereignty. Two female figures stand on either side of the shield. On the left is Liberty, holding a staff topped with a liberty cap. On the right is Ceres, Roman goddess of grain and abundance. A banner below the shield proclaims "Liberty and Prosperity", and across the top arc of the shield are the words "The Great Seal of the State of New Jersey."

[State Statute.](#)

< [NH](#)



[NM](#) >

[[HOME](#) || [INTRO](#) || [SYMBOLS](#) || [ALMANAC](#) || [GEOGRAPHY](#) || [STATE MAPS](#) || [PEOPLE](#) || [FORUM](#)]
[[NEWS](#) || [COOL SCHOOLS](#) || [STATE QUIZ](#) || [BOOK STORE](#) || [MARKETPLACE](#) || [NETSTATE.STORE](#)]
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The Great Seal of the State of New Jersey



New Jersey's state seal was designed by Pierre Eugene du Simitiere and presented in May, 1777, to the Legislature, which was then meeting in the Indian King Tavern in Haddonfield.

The three plows in the shield honor the state's agricultural tradition. The helmet above the shield faces forward, an attitude denoting sovereignty and thus particularly fitting for one of the first governments created under the notion that the state itself is the sovereign. The crest above the helmet is a horse's head.

The supporting female figures are Liberty and Ceres, the Roman goddess of grain, symbolizing abundance. Liberty, on the viewer's left, carries the liberty cap on her staff. Ceres holds a cornucopia filled with harvested produce.

Although the Seal's major elements have kept their relative positions for more than 200 years, there have been a number of lesser changes. The staff that Liberty now holds with her right hand she once held in the crook of her left arm. While the female figures now face straight ahead, they at one time looked away from the shield. The cornucopia that Ceres now holds upright was once inverted, its open end upon the ground. The Seal was redesigned in accordance with Joint Resolution 8 of the Laws of 1928. It was then that the year of statehood, 1776, first appeared in Arabic figures.

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Public Info Assistance
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Districts by Number
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Municipalities Index

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Bills 2004-2005
Bills 2002-2003
Bills 2000-2001
Bills 1998-1999
Bills 1996-1997

COMMITTEES

Senate Committees
-Committee Aides
Assembly Committees
-Committee Aides
Joint Committees
Committee Groups
Legislative
Commissions
Senate Nominations

LAWS and CONSTITUTION

Statutes
Chapter Laws
Constitution

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Senate
General Assembly

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Conflicts of Interest
Law
Code Of Ethics
Financial Disclosure
Joint Rule 19
Ethics Tutorial

LEGISLATIVE PUBLICATIONS

Legislative Calendar
Legislative Digest
Legislative LDOA

New Jersey State Seal



New Jersey's state seal was designed by Pierre Eugene du

Simitiere and presented in May of 1777. There are several state symbols included in the seal. The horse head stands for speed and strength, and is the state animal. The helmet of a knight's suit of armor faces forward representing sovereignty for a state that governs itself. Below the helmet is a shield with three plows on it. The plows show the importance of agriculture to the state's economic power.

The female figures pictured in the state seal are **Liberty** on the left, carrying the liberty cap on her staff. The liberty cap was worn as a symbol of rebellion by patriots in the colonies. **Ceres**, the Roman goddess of grain is on the right. She holds a cornucopia filled with harvested produce, symbolizing abundance. Below it all is a banner with the state's motto,